

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
January 15, 2016

There will be no residential garbage pickup on Monday, January 18, 2016, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the City Commission Meeting has been rescheduled for January 25, 2016.

Dates to Remember

January 18, 2016 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – City offices will be closed.
January 21, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
January 21, 2016 – City Commission Workshop
January 25, 2016 – City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- A permit has now been issued for the infrastructure at GreenTree West. Ridgill & Son was selected as the underground contractor and will start soon with the drainage and roads;
- Last week was First Responder Appreciation Week. The Middle School held a breakfast program that was top notch. Director Reese and Sheriff Whidden spoke to the students about public service and first responder careers. Eastside Elementary gave out goodie bags.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- We continue to offer the pre-kindergarten program. The number of children attending has grown to approximately 110 in 4 daycares here in Clewiston. ABC Mouse has been acquired as part of this program and is free to any child that has a library card. Through this program the children have been taught keyboarding skills including drag, click, and drop skills. Most of these children have now been migrated to our Lexia Core 5 Reading program. There is still great excitement around this program. If you would like to send your child or other family member to participate, please call the library for more information.
- This library has been selected as one of eleven libraries throughout Florida to offer a Career Online High School program. So far we have over 20 applications and 6 people who have already started the classes. We have 20 scholarships and hope to be able to distribute all of them.

- The after school tutoring program is still doing very, very well. This program is for students from grade 1 to grade 5. The program has grown and now we have the help of 3 qualified teachers as well as honor students from the high school.
- English as a Second Language classes have started. Call the library to register.
- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org. Your library truly has a lot to offer.**

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- The greens were top dressed this week.
- The tees were fertilized this week.
- The maintenance staff has completed putting the new sod out on the golf course in the areas needed.
- Glow Ball Tournament is scheduled for January 15, 2015. To sign-up call the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- The second Winter First Tee Junior Golf Clinic is January 16, 2016. The clinic is from 4pm-5pm. We are now First Tee here at the Clewiston Golf Course. Sign-up is the day of the clinic as the kids arrive. We will be working on full swing with an emphasis on responsibility.
- On Monday, January 18, 2016, Martin Luther King Holiday, the golf course will be on holiday hours. The golf shop will be open from 7:15am-3:00pm and carts are due in at 5:00pm.
- On Saturday, January 23, 2016, the golf course will host the Moore Haven Project Graduation Golf Tournament. Sign-up in the golf shop or call 863-983-1448.
- January 23, 2016 will be the first Ladies Golf Clinic for the season from 4pm-5pm. It will be on putting. To participate, show up just before the clinic starts.
- Get all Clewiston Golf Course news by signing up on Constant Contact. Go to the golf link on the City of Clewiston website and sign up on Constant Contact. You will be automatically put on the golf course e-mail.
- Golf lessons are available, contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Season is here. We suggest making tee times here at the golf course.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- **Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.**

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: Last year's contract was fulfilled and an extension for another year was granted. Traps were set Monday night and only one of the three caught mosquitoes. The Okeechobee Blvd. trap delivered 150 mosquitoes.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff removed the back wall and the fence around the Horseshoe pits this week. Material to build new pits has been picked up and we will start construction by week's end. (2) Six Roebelenii Palms were added to the entrance of the Commerce Park this week. These palms were donated by Carter Tree Farms.

- Civic Park Rebuild: (1) Five Roebelenii Palms donated by Carter Tree Farms were planted at two locations in the park. I am very pleased with the way things are looking. I encourage everyone to stop and take a walk and see how nice it is. I am still in need of donations and plant contributions. Call 983-1471 if you are interested in helping this project continue.
- Sidewalk Project: Atkinson Concrete will start replacing broken sections in the Civic Park and the sidewalk behind the Youth Center before the end of the month.
- Boat Basin project: (1) The contractor has been given a punch list of items to clean up before the final payment will be released. (2) Staff is gathering all necessary information for the required FWC Funding sign to be installed on site. (3) Twenty pallets of Bahia sod have been ordered and will be installed on the slope of the detention pond.
- Pasadena Project: Inlets and material have been ordered. This project will start when the Boat basin project is completed.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- The Criminal Investigations Division had a very successful week in making 13 felony arrests stemming from armed robberies, home burglaries, and vehicle burglaries. Three subjects were arrested and charged with armed robbery which occurred in the 100 block of West Aztec. Highlands County Sheriff's Office was investigating two armed robbery cases within their jurisdiction. After information was received, the Clewiston Police Department assisted the Highlands County Sheriff's Office in the identification, case preparation, and arrest of two individuals. These individuals are also currently being investigated as being suspects in other robberies within our jurisdiction. Six subjects have been apprehended and arrested in connection with two home burglaries which occurred at West Crescent and Banyan on the north side of town. Detectives recovered approximately \$6000.00 in stolen property. Two warrants have been issued for two subjects involved in two different car burglaries.
- The patrol division has been steady with call generated complaints as well as self-initiated activity. The continued effort with traffic enforcement resulted in several criminal traffic related arrests to include DUI and active warrants. Road Patrol has been instrumental in assisting the Detectives in the investigations and arrests of the above thirteen felony arrests.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the last two weeks' activity:

1064	Commercial Security Checks/ Residential Security Checks
598	Complaints Investigated
13	Traffic Citations Issued
17	Arrests Made
	City Ordinance Violations
14	Code Violations Opened
1	Rental Inspections
6	Merchant Escorts Provided
11	Alarms Responded To
4	Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Made two new water services on W Del Monte - tied into new line
- Electric Activities
 - Preparations underway for Sugar Festival; relocated a transformer and trimmed trees at Sugar Festival Park
 - Repaired street lights and trimmed trees on Central Ave and Okeechobee Blvd
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION! Visit our office today.
- ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware:

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.